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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DS-00	EUR-01
	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00
	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	ASDS-01	RPE-01

/025W

-----10A75D 160039Z /38

R 151513Z DEC 93  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5285  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

UNCLAS KIGALI 04439

YAOUNDE FOR DAO

E.O. 12356:N/A  
TAGS: PREL, PINS, ASEC, MARR, RW  
SUBJECT: THE FRENCH WILL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

1. WITH UNAMIR'S ARRIVAL, THE FRENCH TROOPS WERE ASKED  
TO TURN OVER THE SECURITY OF KIGALI TO THE UN FORCES. AS  
AGREED ON WITH GENERAL DALAIRE, ALL FRENCH TROOPS LEFT  
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KIGALI BY 13 DECEMBER (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SIX  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND TO PAY  
BILLS). THE FRENCH DEPARTED IN TWO TRANCHES. THE FIRST  
PLATOON FLEW OUT OF KIGALI ON 11 DECEMBER WHILE THE  
SECOND PLATOON LEFT ON 13 DECEMBER.

2. THE CEREMONY TO BID FAREWELL TO THE TROOPS WAS HELD  
ON 10 DECEMBER AT THE KANOMBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE FRENCH DEFENSE ATTACHE  
ADDRESSED THE TROOPS, THANKING THEM FOR THEIR LOYAL  
SERVICE AND PROFESSIONALISM. TO THE TUNE OF JINGLE

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BELLS, THE DEFENSE MINISTER INSPECTED BOTH THE FRENCH AND RWANDAN TROOPS PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY. AS A FITTING CLOSE TO THE WHOLE CEREMONY (PREVENTING THE RWANDAN MILITARY BAND FROM DOING THEIR RENDITION OF FROSTY THE SNOWMAN), THE FRENCH SOLDIERS MARCHED OFF THE TARMAC SINGING A MILITARY HYMN.

3. WITH THE FRENCH'S DEPARTURE, UN OFFICERS HAVE BEEN POSTED AT MOST GENDARME AND ARMY FACILITIES. THE UN FORCES HAVE ALSO BEEN SEEN ON NUMEROUS PATROLS THROUGHOUT KIGALI, LETTING EVERYONE KNOW THAT THE STREETS ARE STILL SECURE, DESPITE THE FRENCH'S DEPARTURE. RANDOM NIGHT PATROLS OF KIGALI ARE ALSO CONDUCTED AS AN EXTRA SECURITY MEASURE AGAINST BURGLARY AND ARMED ATTACKS ON HILLS WITH NO ELECTRICITY FOR THE EVENING.

4. COMMENT. THE FRENCH MILITARY WERE EVER PRESENT ON THE STREETS OF KIGALI. THEIR DEPARTURE MEANT FOR MANY THAT THE CAPITAL WOULD NO LONGER BE SAFE. THE UN FORCES,

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HOWEVER, HAVE MADE AN EXCELLENT SHOWING IN THIS FIRST WEEK AND HAVE CALMED FEARS. STILL LEFT TO BE WORKED OUT ARE THE SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY AND UNAMIR. UNFORTUNATELY, THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IS ACCUSTOMED TO THE SPECIAL SERVICES IT RECEIVED FROM THE FRENCH MILITARY DETACHMENT. A MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 17 DECEMBER WILL EXPLAIN HOW FAR UNAMIR WILL GO TO PROVIDE SPECIAL SECURITY PROTECTION TO THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY. END COMMENT. LEADER

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